

now vote on the amendment offered by Senator Withem. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment is adopted. The next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend, Mr. President. (The Rod Johnson amendment appears on page 1645 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, this is important for those of you following this debate to listen closely. This amendment, basically, amends Senator Schmit's earlier amendment that this body adopted. We went from the obligation of the marketer from \$25,000 before the fund kicks in, now for the smaller marketers down to \$5,000. My amendment reaches toward the middle of that, going to \$15,000. I am...we're helping the smaller guy, in fact, I realize that a lot of you are in an awkward position where you want to help out the smaller operator in your districts and many of us represent small rural operators and we would like to do what we can to help them. But I'm also standing here saying I've got to be responsible to the consumers of petroleum in this state and those that are paying this fee or this tax and supporting the fund. And I'm saying at least we ought to have the operators contributing something and I think something is more than \$5,000 and I decided to settle on \$15,000. That's the amendment. It's very clean and I think we have had this debate on Senator Schmit's amendment earlier so I don't know if I need to cover my reasons for offering it other than I think it asks for a greater obligation from the smaller operator yet allows them a distinction from the larger operators which will continue to pay the \$25,000 first up front fee when a petroleum release happens in our environment. I just feel like it is fair and I would ask the body to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion of the amendment offered by Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I guess it is true of the old adage that you can never let your full weight